



WingTips

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Cadets soar high at this year's flight academy

*by Capt. Sherrie Herzfeld,
for the 2004 Flight Academy
Committee*

Minnesota Wing hosted its annual flight academy at Mankato Airport in Mankato, Minn., from July 16-24.

This year's academy accepted 36 students (22 powered and 14 glider) from five states, including Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. An additional staff of 34 from three states, including Iowa, Minnesota and Tennessee, attended.

All powered students that were eligible soloed, as did four glider students. The weather, although hot on several days, was flyable all week. Safety was always on top of our list, and we had no mishaps of any kind.

The major change for this year was a formation of a committee after Capt. Mike Hartell, wing headquarters, stepped down as commander after six very successful years.

The committee members included Lt. Col. Roger

Brogren, St. Croix Squadron; Lt. Col. John Quilling, wing headquarters; Maj. Carl Hallum, Group Four; and myself, Anoka Squadron. We started to put together this year's academy last October, spending many hours revamping, changing, but keeping much the same.

Maj. Dave Odette accepted the commander position and joined us in January.

We all give Hartell a big thank you for giving us guidance and help when we needed it.

The hours we all put in were often long and numerous; but in the end, it paid off with a successful academy. All committee members and Odette have stated their intentions of coming back for next year's flight academy.

We give a BIG thank you to the 34 staff who gave up 10 days of their time! The days are long and very busy for all, but it is very rewarding. A large percentage of the staff are returnees and have made a commitment for 2005 Flight Academy!



Lt. Col. Roger Brogren, St. Croix Squadron; C/Airman 1st Class Ryan Rudnick, St. Paul Squadron; and Cadet Blaine Jacobson, North Dakota Wing, go over flight operations for the glider aircraft.



Cadets Paul Kaufman and Ryan Rudnik, both members of St. Paul Squadron, then take a flight in the Minnesota wing glider.

For more information and lots of photos, visit the academy website at www.mnwg.cap.gov/cp/200

4flightacademy. Soon to be posted will be information on next year's academy.

Commentary: Background of Minnesota Wing commander

by Col. Steve Miller,
wing commander

For those of you who do not know me, I have a short bio for your information.

My CAP career began in 1994, when my son recruited me into Valley Cadet Squadron, Burnsville, Minn. My positions there included assistant testing officer, deputy commander of cadets and squadron commander. In 2000, I was appointed chief of staff - mission support for wing headquarters. On May 1, 2004, I was appointed wing commander of Minnesota

My CAP awards include the Gill Rob Wilson award, the Meritorious Service Award, three Commander's Commendation awards, the Unit Citation award and an Air Force Association Exceptional Service Award.

My emergency services ratings include observer, scanner, ground branch director, ground team leader, ground team member, urban DF team member, communications unit leader and mis-



Col. Steve Miller

sion radio operator.

I was born and raised in Watertown, S.D. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from South Dakota State University, and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix, Az., and have completed 442 credit hours of coursework from the Army Institute for Professional Development. My day job is with General Mills in Golden Valley, Minn., where I work in the Information Systems Security Department.

My wife and I live in Burnsville. My wife is a former squadron commander of Valley Cadet

Squadron. We have two sons -- Pat, who recently returned from a 15 month tour of Iraq with the Army Reserve and currently works with the State of Minnesota at the Air Guard Base, Minneapolis, and Chaz (still a CAP member and pilot), who lives in Florida and flies for Chautauqua Airlines.

As we roll into the fall, we still have the opportunity to take advantage of many training opportunities. There are still some search and rescue exercises coming up. Additionally, units may run their own training

missions.

There is also training in the works for the new slow scan kits. Aircraft installation of the parts needed to run the computer and radio is on-going.

Let's keep our emergency services ratings and training current, so we will be ready to perform our mission when called upon. Each flying unit should include mission pilots, observers and scanners. Other units should have observers, scanners, ground team leaders and ground team members.

Semper Vigilans

Standards must be maintained to wear the military-style uniform

In accordance with CAP Regulation 39-1, senior members and cadets age 18 and older must meet CAP weight and grooming standards in order to wear the military-style U.S. Air Force uniform.

Weight allowances, as set by height, are listed in attachment two of regulation 39-1. In general, CAP weight allowances are 10-15 pounds higher than USAF standards.

Additionally, to wear the military-style uniform, men must keep their hair tapered. It is not to touch the ears or the collar. Bangs are not allowed below the eyebrows and may not fall below the headgear. Sideburns must not reach below the bottom of the ear lobe. Mustaches

may not extend beyond the lip line.

For women, hair in the back may touch but not fall below the bottom edge of the collar. Barrettes, ribbons and other ornaments, except inconspicuous pins and combs, are not to be worn. Hair styles that prevent the proper wearing of the service hat are not appropriate.

Those who do not meet the standards of wear for a military-style uniform for reasons of grooming or fitness may wear the CAP blazer, aviator shirt or knit shirt uniform combinations; CAP jumpsuit or CAP flight suit with military grade insignia; the USAF flight suit or BDUs without grade insignia; or civilian attire as befits the occasion.

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P.O. Box 11230, St. Paul, MN 55111
www.mnwg.cap.gov
wingtips@mnwg.cap.gov

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Wing Commander: Col. Steve Miller
Wing Public Affairs Officer: Capt. Al Pabon
Wingtips Editor: Maj. Shannon Bauer

Chaplain Mikitta honored with national headquarters award

MAXWELL AFB, AL.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Donald Mikitta, wing headquarters, received the Senior Chaplain of the Year award during the CAP's 2004 National Recognition Ceremony in Tampa, Aug. 21.

Maj. Gen. Richard Bowling, outgoing national commander, presented the award to Mikitta. "It's because of the contribution of members like Don Mikitta that Civil Air Patrol continues to play an important role in serving our nation," Bowling said.

Mikitta is the director of cadet programs for wing headquarters but also serves as a chaplain and a cadet programs officer at Red Wing Composite Squadron and a deputy chaplain at North Central Region.

"He has been considered a role model for chaplains in the North Central Region for many years," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ron Tottingham, North Central Region chaplain.

Mikitta served in the U.S. Air Force as a munitions maintenance specialist. He then graduated Lexington Baptist College, Lexington, Ky., in 1976, culminating in his ordination by the Bryan Station Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky.

He has been a member of CAP since 1979, after assuming the pastorate of the Landmark Baptist



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Donald Mikitta

Church, Red Wing, Minn. In 2001, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humanities by the Great Plains Baptist Divinity School, Sioux Falls, S.D.

The criteria to be considered for this award included attendance at wing, region and national conferences; completion of several training requirements; participation in emergency services; and leadership provided within the civilian community. Those nominated for this award must have completed a minimum of five years service in CAP.

CAP holds the National Recognition Ceremony each year in conjunction with its annual conference. This year, the conference drew hundreds of members from throughout the nation. The three-day event included business meetings, the election of a new national commander, training seminars and exhibits by military and business aviation vendors and partners.



Lt. Tom Kettell, wing vice commander; Maj. Joe Volding, Group III commander; Maj. Don Sorenson, incoming Anoka unit commander; and Lt. Col. Mike Moen, outgoing Anoka unit commander participate in a change of command ceremony.

Sorenson takes command of Anoka Composite Squadron

Photo and story by 2nd Lt. Mike Rice, Anoka Squadron

Anoka County Composite Squadron hosted a change of command ceremony during its weekly meeting Aug. 17.

Maj. Joe Volding, Group III commander, presided over the ceremony as outgoing unit commander Lt. Col. Michael R. Moen of Coon Rapids, Minn., passed command to Maj. Donald L. Sorenson, Jr., of Andover, Minn.

Sorenson joined CAP in

1996. Previously, he served as the unit's deputy commander for cadets from 2001 thru 2004.

Additionally, he was squadron activities officer from 1996-2000; escort to the Color Guard State Champions 1997, 1999, 2002 and 2004; the Discover Aviation Day project officer 1998 thru 2004; and the unit public affairs officer in 2000 and 2001.

Moen was appointed as Group III vice commander.

Cadet change of commands

C/2nd Lt. Samuel J. Schmidt from
C/Capt. Ryan Kenny, Anoka Squadron

C/2nd Lt. Justin Binion from
C/Maj. Crissy Dalbec, Duluth Squadron

C/Chief Master Sgt. Tyler Beckman from
C/2nd Lt. Jesse Decker, Owatonna Squadron

Senior member and cadet officer promotions

Capt. Daniel Fosterling, Saint Croix
Capt. Dwight Hackbarth, Hutchinson
Capt. Joseph Stanich, Crow Wing
Capt. Thomas Urban, Hutchinson
Capt. Susan Vinge, North Hennepin
1st Lt. Donel Swanson, Saint Paul
2nd Lt. Louis Adornato, St. Croix
2nd Lt. Lon Anderson, Crow Wing
2nd Lt. Michael Deleon, Saint Paul
2nd Lt. Gary Hall, Viking
2nd Lt. Susan Narveson, Saint Paul
2nd Lt. Daniel Peakearo, Saint Paul
2nd Lt. Nash Pherson, Mankato
2nd Lt. Paul Stewart, Saint Paul
C/Capt. Brian Anderson, 130th
C/2nd Lt. Bobbiekate Bardwell, Duluth
C/2nd Lt. Justin Binion, Duluth
C/2nd Lt. Joshua Waddell, Viking

Applications now accepted for Civil Leadership Academy

The Civic Leadership Academy will be held in Washington D.C., from Feb. 26 to March 5.

Its purpose is to foster cadet civic growth by increasing leadership skills, civic responsibility and overall interest in the democratic process. The academy is an opportunity for 24 of CAP's brightest cadets to explore their government.

In Washington, cadets will visit the Capitol, the Supreme Court and the State Department, as well as many other national monuments. And to help compensate for the cadets' absence from school, a final project will be included.

Eligibility requirements include having earned the Mitchell Award and being 16 years or older at the time of application.

To apply, submit a completed CAPF 31, endorsed by your unit and wing commander, to CAP national headquarters. Attach a one-page resume, outlining experience in emergency services, aerospace education, cadet programs and community service; a one-page letter of recommendation; and a recent photo, taken while wearing the AF-style blue uniform.

All applications must be received no later than Nov. 1.



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P.O. Box 11230, St. Paul, MN 55111

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